MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D C., NOVEMBER 11 AND 12, 1921.

The second meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1922 was held in its office at 1729 New York Avenue, northwest, Washington, D. C., on Friday, November 11, and Saturday, November 12, 1921.

The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman;
Mr. Greenleaf;
Mr. Fraser;
Mr. Bacon;
Mr. Ayres;
Mr. Mowbray;

also Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Assistant to the Secretary, who served as Secretary of the meeting in the absence of Lieut. Colonel C. O. Sherrill, Secretary and Executive Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PRECEDING MEETING: The minutes of the meeting of the Commission held on September 22 and 23, 1921, were approved.

2. MEMORIAL SERVICE AT ARLINGTON AMPHITHEATER: The members of the Commission having been invited by the President to attend the Memorial Service in honor of the Unknown American at the Arlington Amphitheater the Commission adjourned their meeting at ten o'clock in time to join the presidential party. With the Commission were Mr. Thomas Hastings, architect of the Amphitheater, Mr. Wm. Mitchell Kendall, and Mr. Paul Bartlett, sculptor. The trip to Arlington was made by way of the long bridge. Owing to the crowds and jams of automobiles it took one and one-half hours to reach the Amphitheater, whereas otherwise the trip requires about twenty minutes. The occasion again emphasized the need of the Memorial Bridge proposed by the Commission, which is to extend from the Lincoln Memorial directly to Arlington. A most distinguished gathering was present at the Amphitheater, consisting of representatives of the leading Nations

of the world who had come to attend the Limitation of Armament Conference.

3. LINCOLN MEMORIAL REFLECTING BASIN, TYPE OF GRANITE: The Commission inspected samples of granite at the Lincoln Memorial which had been submitted in response to advertisements for bids issued by the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds for granite for the Reflecting Basin of the Lincoln Memorial. The Commission were unanimous in their opinion that the coping should be substantially the same in color and texture as the granite used in the retaining wall and steps for which Milford Pink Granite had been used. Sample No. 7, coarse pointed, Milford Pink Granite was selected. (Exhibit A).

Note: - Upon report from Colonel Sherrill by letter dated November 18 (Exhibit B), that the Milford Pink Granite was considered too costly, Mr. Moore, Colonel Sherrill and Mr. Bacon were in conference with Chief Justice Taft, Chairman of the Lincoln Memorial Commission, on Tuesday morning, November 22, and after a reconsideration of the samples of granite submitted, and a report from Mr. Bacon that he had been advised by Mr. Platt, Mr. Kendall, and Mr. Ayres that if the Milford Pink Granite could not be used then they would recommend the Mt. Airy (N. C.) granite, it was unanimously agreed that the Mt. Airy granite be used for the coping of the Reflecting Basin.

4. LINCOLN MEMORIAL LIGHTING: While at the Lincoln Memorial the Commission considered the lighting for the Memorial. Mr. Bacon stated that he had nothing further to add to his letter of October 7, 1921 in which he disapproved the artificial lighting apparatus used. Mr. Bacon said he believes a sufficient lighting for the Memorial may be obtained from a row of lamp posts around the great circle surrounding the Memorial. As to type, the Potomac Park lamp post has been suggested.

5. ARLINGTON MEMORIAL BRIDGE: The Commission considered at the site

pending plans for the proposed Memorial Bridge to Arlington. The great necessity for the bridge had become evident during the trip to the Arlington Amphitheater in the morning and the Commission expressed the hope that Congress would soon provide the necessary appropriation of $25,000 specified in an act authorizing the preparation of plans for the bridge. The Commission believe a bridge without a draw properly designed will amply meet the requirements of water traffic to Georgetown. It is reported that the largest vessel which would pass the bridge would be a tugboat for which a falling chimney could be used the same as in passing under bridges in London, Paris, and other capitals of European countries.

6. GOLD STAR MEMORIAL: Mr. Charles H. Niehaus, sculptor, submitted a model for a War Memorial to be erected by the Gold Star Cemetery Association at Des Moines, Iowa. Of two sculptural designs submitted the Commission approved the ideal figure in high relief. The Commission disapproved the architecture and recommended changes as follows:

That instead of the names on the back of the monument they be placed on the winged panels and the monument given a planting screen; a restudy of the curve on the top of the monument; a change in the structural lines to give the central motif a frame; omission of the benches; the pavement to be in one color to harmonize with the monument. The Commission suggested a change in the sculptural design to show a seated figure and asked that the sculptor re-submit the model. (Exhibit C).

7. DOMINICAN CAMPAIGN BADGE: The Secretary of the Navy again brought to the attention of the Commission for their consideration the question of securing an acceptable design for the Dominican Campaign Badge. The Commission recommended placing the matter in the hands of a competent sculptor who should redesign the medal and that the Secretary of the Navy provide an allotment of $1,000 for this purpose.

8. √ STATUE OF DANTE: Mr. Moore reported that since the meeting of the Commission on September 22d the Committee of Italians of New York had reported that they desire to have the monument dedicated in the immediate future and that accordingly after having consulted several members of the Commission authority had been given by the Officer in Charge of Public Buildings and Grounds to place the statue on the site approved by the Fine Arts Commission in Meridian Hill Park on the Fifteenth Street side halfway between the grand terrace and the Buchanan Memorial; also that pending the passage of the Joint Resolution by the House of Representatives authority had been granted by Hon. Norman J. Gould, Chairman of the House Committee on the Library, to place the Statue of Dante at the site selected on a temporary pedestal. The United States Senate had passed the measure August 22, 1921. It is proposed to dedicate the monument early in December.

9. STATUE OF JEANNE D'ARC: Mr. Moore reported that the firm of McKim, Mead and White, of New York City, is designing the pedestal for the Jeanne d'Arc Memorial, and that it is the desire of Madame Polifeme and her Society, who are giving the statue to Washington, to dedicate the Statue in the near future. Mr. Moore stated that accordingly after having consulted several members of the Commission authority has been given by the Officer in Charge of Public Buildings and Grounds to place the statue on the site approved by the Fine Arts Commission on the grand terrace in Meridian Hill Park, and the required Congressional authority has been secured.

Mr. Wm. Mitchell Kendall, who attended the session, advised that they are making a permanent foundation at the approved site and are cooperating with the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds in the matter.

10. SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL CROSS: Miss Abbie B. McCammon, President of the Argonne Unit of the American Women's Legion, in company with Miss McComb and Mrs. Rogers of the Committee, appeared before the Commission and stated that they desire to confer with the Quartermaster General regarding specifications and bids for the Soldiers' Memorial Cross to be erected in marble in the World War Section in Arlington. The Commission concurred in the matter and reported their approval

of the design by letter to Colonel George H. Penrose, Chief of the Graves Registration Service. (Exhibit D).

11. PEACE DOLLAR: Mr. Fraser reported that he had conferred with the Director of the Mint as to the proposed Peace Dollar and that it was the desire of the Director to have a design made under the supervision of the Commission of Fine Arts. At the request of the Director a letter was sent to him informing him of the cost involved in securing a design. (Exhibit E).

12. LIMITATION OF ARMAMENT CONFERENCE MEDAL: Mr. Fraser recommended to the Commission the production of a medal to commemorate the Limitation of Armament Conference which was opening its session in Washington on November 12, 1921 in response to the call of President Harding, and was being represented by the leading Nations of the world. The Commission thought it highly desirable to have such a medal produced and recommended that steps be taken accordingly.

13. CAMP MERRITT MEMORIAL: Designs were submitted by the Camp Merritt Memorial Association for their War Memorial, but action was deferred by the Commission until the next meeting.

14. THE MALL: The Commission discussed in detail plans for the development of the Mall, believing that the time has come when the completion of the Mall Plan should be looked forward to. It is understood that the Lincoln Memorial and the Grant Memorial will be dedicated in 1922, the Freer Gallery is nearing completion and the corner stone is to be laid of the George Washington Memorial. Likewise it is believed the Agricultural Department will soon apply for funds for the completion of their main building. All these are on the Mall.

At the present time there is great need for a complete set of grading plans and profiles for the Mall. The Commission adopted the following report and recommendations with reference to Plans for the Mall:

The landscape work in the Mall has now reached a point which will require an increasing amount of time and attention on the part of the Commission. The gradual disappearance of the temporary war buildings will leave large spaces for drives and planting. The location of these roads was in part fixed when the temporary buildings were located. While the treatment of the Mall must be progressive, yet large portions of it will call for attention in the immediate future.

In order that the Commission may be able to give systematic and thorough advice, a complete set of plans for the entire Mall area should be prepared at the earliest possible moment. The present plans are incomplete. It appears that grading plans were begun by Mr. Punchard, under the immediate supervision of Mr. Olmsted, and that a survey was made by Mr. Marsh, of the Mall area. All of these plans contain information in the highest degree. They have been used as a basis for construction work that is now going on piece by piece in the Mall. There is, however, no complete set of grading plans and profiles, at least if there is such a set, the Commission has no knowledge of them. The need of such a set of plans was conspicuously shown when the question of the location of the George Washington Memorial came up a month or so ago. The Commission, therefore, recommend that Mall plans be prepared as follows:

1. A new grading plan for the area between the Grant Memorial and Third Street.

2. Correct Third Street on the grading plan between Third and Seventh Streets.

3. A grading plan for the area between 7th and 12th Streets.

4. A grading plan for the area between 12th and 15th Streets.

5. A grading plan for the area between 17th Street and the Lincoln Memorial, and showing B Street south.

6. Profiles: There should be prepared in complete form a set of profiles from Fifteenth Street to the Lincoln Memorial. The profiles for the areas between the Grant Memorial and

Fourteenth Street, now in the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds, should be checked and given proper title, so that they may be submitted to the Commission for approval.

The plan for curbs and walks on the Mall, approved by the Commission of Fine Arts on September 3, 1920, should govern where questions arise regarding the constructions of curbs and walks for the Mall.

One plan should be drawn showing properly the Mall Axis, the roads and walks through the Mall, and the location of present and proposed buildings on the Mall, from the Grant Memorial to the Lincoln Memorial.

These plans when complete should be submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts for consideration and report.

During an inspection trip over the Mall area, the Commission observed that a number of improvements could be made at once, as follows:

1. Removal of certain scrubby and dying trees, such as soft maples, catalpas, etc.

2. Removal of osmanthus hedge, in line with the Mall, on the east side of 17th Street, N.W.

3. Removal of stunted, gnarled trees and undesirable shrubs south of the State, War and Navy Buildings, indirectly related to the Mall Plan.

15. UNION STATION PLAZA: Mr. Moore reported that he had been in conference with Senator Keyes of New Hampshire regarding the development of Union Station Plaza and that the Senator had introduced a resolution which was agreed to by the Senate on October 20, 1921, requesting the Attorney General to inform the Senate of the steps which are necessary to be taken in order to complete the carrying out of the intention of Congress to acquire the lands between the Capitol and the Union Station for the enlargement of the Capitol grounds as expressed in the Act approved June 25, 1910.

Mr. Moore stated that in order to have the Union Station Plaza brought into a sightly condition for the Limitation of Armament Conference he had called upon representatives of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, and that they had contributed $500. for cleaning up the squares of the plaza still owned by them.

Mr. Elliott Woods, architect of the Capitol, promised to clean up the Government owned squares on the plaza.

16. NUNS OF THE BATTLE FIELD: The Commission inspected the model for the Nuns of the Battle Field Monument at the studio of the sculptor, Jerome Connor, and reported to him by letter. (Exhibit F).

17. METHODIST HEADQUARTERS BUILDING: Designs for a Methodist Headquarters Building were submitted by the Board of Temperance, Prohibition and Public Morals of the Methodist Episcopal Church. It is proposed to erect the building at Maryland Avenue and First Street, northeast. The Commission thought a building to conform to the type of the Capitol group should be erected on the site proposed but deferred action until the next meeting.

18. LIFE OF DANIEL H. BURNHAM, ARCHITECT, PLANNER OF CITIES: The Commission congratulated the chairman, Mr. Moore, on his recent publication, consisting of two large, handsomely bound volumes, with illustrations, published by Houghton, Mifflin Company, on the Life of Daniel H. Burnham, the first chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts. In addition to a biography of Mr. Burnham, the volumes set forth his great work as Director of Works of the World's Fair at Chicago, in 1893, as a member of the Senate Park Commission of 1901, architect of the Union Station, and in laying plans for great cities; and they are intensely interesting also because of Mr. Burnham's associations with the greatest among the artists and statesmen of his time.

On November 11th the Commission were the guests of Mrs. Charles W. Richardson at Rauscher's. A part of Saturday afternoon, the 12th, was spent in an inspection tour about the city.

C O P Y

November 12, 1921.

Dear Colonel Sherrill:

The Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting yesterday inspected the samples of granite at the Lincoln Memorial for the coping of the Reflecting Basin.

The Commission were unanimous in their opinion that the coping should be substantially the same in color and texture as the granite used in the retaining wall and the steps so that there shall be no disturbing change in appearance. The Milford Pink Granite having been selected for the work already done the Commission thinks it would be most unfortunate to have a change made. Sample No. 7 Milford Pink Granite, coarse pointed, was selected.

Sincerely, yours,

(signed) Charles Moore

Chairman.

Lieut. Colonel C. O. Sherrill,

Officer in Charge,

Public Buildings and Grounds.

EXHIBIT A.

COPY

OFFICE OF
PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

November 18, 1921.

Mr. Charles Moore,
Chairman, Fine Arts Commissi on,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Moore:

Your letter in reference to the stone for the coping around the reflecting pool in West Potomac Park, which was examined by the Fine Arts Commission, has been noted. I am very sorry that I was so busily engaged on the 11th that I was not able to examine this stone with the Commission, but since then I have gone over the matter very carefully and have examined the stone in place with Mr.Graves, resident commissioner of the Lincoln Memorial Commission. The stone approved by the Fine Arts Commission is indeed beautiful in tint and texture, and it is regretted that the cost of this stone is so much greater than that of the lowest bidder for a plain type of New Hampshire granite. The cost of the stone desired by the Fine Arts Commission is very much greater than the price of the lowest bidder. In fact it is approximately 50% higher. It, therefore, seems to me that we would not be justified in the selection of this more expensive stone, unless the appearance of the cheaper stone is so entirely out of harmony with the surrounding construction as to jar upon those visiting the Lincoln Memorial. When you consider that this stone is to be placed on the level with the parking and will be subject to the discoloring influences of the weather, and also when youconsider that this stone is some distance away from the pink Milford which the Commission desires to match, I doubt very much if the public would ever be able to appreciate any superior merit in the pink Milford over the New Hampshire granite.

In order, however, to discuss this matter on the site, it has been arranged, at the suggestion of the Chief Justice, to look the matter over on the grounds at 11:00 o'clock a.m., Tuesday next, I would be very glad if you can arrange to be there at that time.

I am also writing to Mr. Bacon requesting that he be present at that time if possible.

Yours very cordially,

C. O. Sherrill,
Lieut. Col., Corps of Engineers.

XHIBIT B.

C O P Y

November 14, 1921.

Dear Mr. Niehaus:

I shall try to put into words the outcome of the discussion between yourself and the members of the Commission of Fine Arts on Saturday. As you well know the members of the Commission expressed their satisfaction with the sculptural portion of the monument. They preferred the sketch showing the ideal figure. I think we all feel that the doughboy with his accoutrements will become a too familiar figure just as the peculiar uniform of the Civil War days has taken the life out of otherwise good work. The ideal figure will stand for all time and be charming in itself, whereas the draped figure tends to become archaeological. This is the conclusion reached by the New York Art Commission also, and we think it is a sound one.

In regard to the architecture, the Commission made a number of suggestions to you, in which you entirely concurred, and we understand that you are going ahead with the architect to carry them out, and that you will then submit a revised model. Briefly, you are going to eliminate the path at the back of the monument and place the names on the wings at the front. This you are going to do because it will give a stronger setting of planting for the monument. Your architect is going to restudy the curve on the top of the monument and carry the structural lines down to the ground. The pavement in colors is to be in one color to harmonize with the monument itself. The seats you will not need because of the shortening of the wings. If you shall prepare a model showing a sitting figure the Commission will be interested in it, but of course this is merely a suggestion.

Sincerely, yours,

(signed) Charles Moore
Chairman.

Charles H. Niehaus, Esq.,
Eagle Crest Studio,
Grantwood, New Jersey.

EXHIBIT C.

COPY

November 11, 1921.

Dear Colonel Penrose:

The Commission of Fine Arts have approved the design for the Soldiers Memorial Cross to be erected in the Arlington National Cemetery by the American Women's Legion, a photograph of the design is enclosed.

The Committee in charge desires to have the necessary arrangements made for drawing up the specifications with a view to securing bids subject to your approval and that of the Secretary of War. The Commission of Fine Arts will be pleased to cooperate with you in this matter.

Sincerely, yours,

(signed) C. O. Sherrill
Lieut. Colonel, Corps of Engineers,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

Colonel George H. Penrose, Chief,
Graves Registration Service,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT D.

C O P Y

November 14, 1921.

Dear Mr. Baker:

The Commission of Fine Arts were pleased to hear of your interview with Mr. Fraser on Saturday concerning the proposed Peace Dollar. As you are aware, the matter has been held in abeyance pending a report from you as to when you would desire the Commission to begin plans for securing the design. The Commission believe a program of competition as promising of the best results, with items of cost as follows:

For sketch submitted by 8 of the leading sculptors of the United States, each to receive $100.	$ 800.
To the successful competitor, including work required to prepare finished model	1500.
Miscellaneous expenses	200.
Total	$2500.

The above figures are submitted with the understanding that the reductions of the sketches, and the dies, would be made at the United States Mint, without expense to the artists.

Sincerely, yours,

(signed) Charles Moore

Chairman.

Hon. Raymond T. Baker,

Director of the Mint,

Treasury Department.

C O P Y

November 23, 1921.

Dear Mr. Connor:

The Commission of Fine Arts, having inspected your model for the Nuns of the Battlefield Monument on November 11th, request me to report to you the following:

The Commission thought the general composition of the model good, and recommend that you proceed in having a full size solar print of the model made, to be used at the site for the monument in determining the final scale. With reference to the sculpture, the Commission recommend that the side figures, particularly the heads, be given more character - the figures should be strengthened; and that there be more variety in the design. A study of the entombment by Donatello is recommended for character of the heads, as well as design, relief and spirit, and anything that may be needed.

The Commission approve the design of the architecture, with the exception of the approach, which should be rearranged, according to a sketch left at your studio. The steps should center on the monument, and the monument should be set back towards the yard which adjoins the monument site. A design of the ground plan embodying these recommendations should be submitted to the Commission for approval, and also a design of the inscription proposed for the rear of the monument. The Commission recommend the use of the Stony Creek Granite rubbed surface, to harmonize with the bronze.

Sincerely, yours,

C. O. Sherrill,

Lieut. Colonel, Corps of Engineers,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

Jerome Connor, Esq.,

322 North Carolina Avenue, S. E.,

Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT F.